

Application No. : 09/904,885
Amdt. Dated : April 27, 2006
Reply To O.A. Of : January 27, 2006

Amendments To The Claims

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims. Only those claims being amended herein show their changes in highlighted form, where insertions appear as underlined text (e.g., insertions) while deletions appear as strikethrough text (e.g., ~~deletions~~).

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating using a continuous multi-mode blood pressure monitor including having a sensor input for receiving a continuous blood pressure sensor signal usable to determine ~~for~~ continuous blood pressure measurements and a cuff input for receiving a non-continuous cuff signal usable to establish ~~for establishing~~ a baseline blood pressure measurement ~~to be used to calibrate continuous blood pressure measurements~~, the method comprising:

when the continuous blood pressure sensor signal is not received, operating at a first time, using the blood pressure monitor in a non-continuous configuration without a sensor for providing a sensor signal so that the blood pressure monitor operates with the cuff to provide non-continuous measurements of blood pressure, wherein during the non-continuous configuration, the blood pressure monitor is not primarily seeking to determine, initialize or calibrate continuous measurements; and

when the continuous blood pressure sensor signal is received, enabling operation of the at a second time, using a blood pressure monitor in a continuous configuration to provide with a sensor for providing a sensor signal that enables the continuous measurements of blood pressure mode, wherein the monitor is capable of operating in said non-continuous configuration to monitor a patient during an entire time the patient is to be monitored for blood pressure.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, comprising applying pressure wherein pressure is applied to the cuff to substantially occlude blood flow.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, comprising determining wherein a transducer determines when blood flow begins as pressure to

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the cuff is slowly reduced to provide non-continuous systolic measurements of blood pressure.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, comprising detecting wherein the transducer detects when full blood flow is restored to provide non-continuous diastolic pressure measurements.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein the sensor input communicates with a sensor, the sensor comprising includes an exciter, which induces a perturbation along the artery, and ~~includes~~ a transducer, which senses an effect of the perturbation that varies in response to changes in the patient's blood pressure.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the exciter and the transducer are integrated into one unit.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the exciter and the transducer are integrated into a wristband.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, comprising attaching a sensor adapted to communicate with the sensor input ~~wherein the sensor is attached to~~ the patient's forearm above the radial artery.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein a sensor adapted to communicate with the sensor input comprises ~~is~~ a noninvasive sensor.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, ~~further comprising at the second time:~~

exciting a perturbation in a patient's blood; and

sensing an effect of the perturbation that varies in response to changes in the patient's blood pressure.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein a the cuff adapted to communicate with the cuff input comprises ~~is~~ a calibration device configured

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to provide a calibration signal representative of the patient's physiological hemoparameter during the continuous configuration.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein a ~~the~~ cuff adapted to communicate with the cuff input comprises an inflatable cuff.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein a ~~the~~ cuff adapted to communicate with the cuff input comprises an occlusive cuff.

14-24. (Canceled).

25. (Currently Amended) A method of providing using a multi-mode blood pressure monitor, comprising:

providing the monitor for use as a ~~at a first time, using a blood pressure monitor having a continuous measurement mode and a non-continuous~~ blood pressure monitor capable of non-continuously monitoring blood pressure of a patient during an entire time the patient's blood pressure is to be monitored, wherein the monitor includes a measurement mode, said blood pressure monitor having the continuous measurement mode which is disabled during said use as a non-continuous blood pressure entire time; and

providing said monitor for use as a continuous blood pressure monitor capable of continuously monitoring blood pressure of another patient, wherein a ~~at a later time, attaching a sensor to enable the continuous measurement mode is enable during monitoring of said another patient.~~

26. (New) The method of Claim 25, comprising attaching a continuous blood pressure sensor.

27. (New) The method of Claim 26, comprising enabling said continuous measurement mode when said sensor is attached.

28. (New) The method of Claim 26, comprising enabling said continuous measurement mode when an enablement device is attached.

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29. (New) A dual mode patient monitor comprising:

a non-continuous sensor input;

a continuous sensor input; and

a processor capable of operating in a stand alone non-continuous measurement mode to non-continuously monitor blood pressure of a patient during an entire time the patient's blood pressure is to be monitored, wherein the processor includes a continuous measurement mode which is disabled during said entire time, and wherein said processor operates in said continuous measurement mode to continuously monitor blood pressure of another patient.

30. (New) The method of Claim 1, comprising attaching a component to the monitor to change said monitor from operation in said non-continuous configuration to operation in said continuous configuration.

31. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein during said continuous configuration, said continuous blood pressure measurements may be adjusted based on said non-continuous cuff signal.

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